UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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S/1998/1120
25 November 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 25 NOVEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF YEMEN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of November 1998, and on behalf of the States members of the League of Arab States, I would like to request the circulation of the present letter and its annex and enclosure as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdalla S. AL-ASHTAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Yemen to the
United Nations
Chairman of the Arab Group

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Annex

Letter dated 24 November 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of November 1998, and on behalf of the States members of the League of Arab States, I would like to refer to the letter dated 25 September 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1998/894) enclosing a resolution, and to the letter dated 16 November 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1998/1083).

In this connection, I have the honour, on behalf of the Arab Group, to transmit to you a revised draft resolution prepared by the Arab Group on the destruction of the Al-Shifa Pharmaceutical Factory in the Sudan.

In the enclosed draft resolution, the Secretary-General is requested to dispatch a fact-finding mission to the Sudan to verify the facts about the said factory, including its production and ownership.

It is the request of the Arab Group that the attached draft resolution be considered by the Security Council as soon as possible.

(Signed) Abdalla Saleh AL-ASHTAL
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Yemen to the
United Nations
Chairman of the Arab Group

Enclosure

The Security Council,

- Having considered the letter by the US Permanent Representative as contained in document (S/1998/780) August 20, 1998 and the letter of the Permanent Representative of the Sudan of 21 August 1998 as contained in document (S/1998/786), and of the Charge d'affaires a.i. of Kuwait of 21 August 1998 as contained in document (S/1998/791), and of the Charge d'affaires a.i. of Qatar as contained in document (S/1998/790), and of the Permanent Representative of Namibia as contained in document (S/1998/802) and of the Permanent Representative of Colombia as contained in document (S/1998/804);

- Having also considered the letter of the Permanent Representative of the Sudan as contained in document (S/1998/1069) of November 16, 1998.

- Noting the bombing of the Al-Shifa factory in the Sudan by the United States on August 20, 1998.

1. Requests the Secretary-General to dispatch a technical competent fact finding mission to verify all facts concerning the Al-Shifa factory including its production and ownership.

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the findings of the mission to the Security Council within one month of adoption of this resolution.

UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 45
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN
AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Identical letters dated 25 November 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter dated 25 November 1998 from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan addressed to you (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. G. Ravan FARHÂDI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 25 November 1998 from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan addressed to the Secretary-General

As it is of the knowledge of Your Excellency, the Taliban mercenaries, back in October 1998 announced that they would ban, unilaterally, the use of land mines by their fighters across the territories they control in Afghanistan.

Sharply against this disseminating background and only days after the announcement, the Taliban are intensely engaged in planting huge quantities of mines in an effort to fortify their positions along many front lines in northern Afghanistan.

The contradictory announcement, similar to scores of commitments yet unilaterally breached by the Taliban, among them their commitment to implement a memorandum of understanding signed with the United Nations, a mutual accord with the Islamic State of Afghanistan over a swap of prisoners, brokered by a Saudi-based Afghan businessman, and thereby a declared ceasefire with the government forces, exemplifies a typical hypocritical attitude maintained by the Taliban.

Although there has been no single instance upon which the Taliban militia have honoured and stood by their words, reports on the massive use of land mines by the Taliban this time, happen to unfold a too-broad contradiction by their announcement in a too little time.

The latest drastic increase in the use of land mines by the Taliban, has been widely covered by the international news media such as the corroborating report by the Pakistani daily, Frontier Post, 18 November 1998 hereinto.

> "Since their autumn offensive on October 10, 1998, the Taliban militia have heavily mined the 10-kilometre strip between the districts of Nijrâb and Tagâb in Kapisa province, about 85-km north of Afghan capital, Kabul and one Western analyst estimated that any attempt to cross the zone could result in 30 percent to 50 percent casualties."

Clearly, the motive behind the false announcement is not only to cover up the increased perpetuation in recent past of crimes against humanity and war crimes by the Taliban militia in northern Afghanistan, but is also a demagogic move aimed at misleading the international community in its assessment of the situation in Afghanistan.